

REMARKS

We trust that the examiner will now find the application to be in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

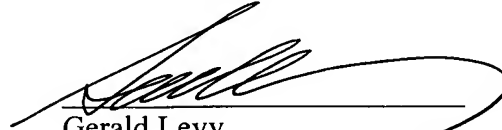
Applicants first note with appreciation the allowance of claims 10, 16, 19-23, 24, 28 and 31. The remaining claims were rejected over Tajima in combination with Yonekubo. The examiner agrees that the fluid of Tajima in communication between compartments of the ink jet tank occurs at a bottom portion of the tank whereas the claims of the present application set forth such communication at the top of the tank. However, the examiner notes that such an arrangement is suggested by Yonekubo.

The claims have now been amended to emphasize that in accordance with the present invention such communication is only at the upper portion of the tank. It is noted that in Yonekubo communication between tank portions occurs both at the top and bottom of the tank portions and hence ink can pass between tank portions at both the top and bottom of the tank portions. This provides the possibility of air bubbles within the tank passing from portion to portion and ultimately preventing the ink from being ejected. The present arrangement ensures that the ink inside the tank passes through the upper portion. This, in turn, has the effect that if there are bubbles of air within the tank such bubbles are captured at the communicated (i.e. upper) portion.

By requiring all of the ink to pass at the top portion of the tank where air bubbles can be entrapped, the problem of air bubbles preventing ink ejection is avoided. With the Yonekubo arrangement ink also passes at the communication portion in the lower part of the tank where bubbles cannot be captured and hence ink containing bubbles can pass therethrough.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims as presently amended now distinguish over the prior art and the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Levy
Reg. No. 24,419

Lindsay S. Adams
Reg. No. 36,425

Attorneys for Applicants

Pitney Hardin LLP
7 Times Square
New York, NY 10036-7311
(212) 297-5800